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A Search for the Masked Tawareks. By W. J. Harding King. 334 pp., 41 Illustrations, Map and Index. Smith, Elder & Co., London, 1903. (Price, 12 sh.)

Mr. King contributes a new spelling of the word commonly written Tuareg in English, because he thinks the form Tawarek most nearly represents the correct pronunciation; but he saw very few Tuaregs, and is he certain that the spelling he uses represents the prevailing pronunciation? It is confusing to multiply spellings of a name; and a form practically settled in general usage should not be disturbed without the best of reasons.

The book does not disclose the time of Mr. King's journey into the Sahara, but it was evidently some time before the recent military expeditions of Lieut. Cottenest and Capt. Laperrine to the Hoggar mountains proved, apparently, that the Tuaregs are really very weak in numbers and in fighting power, though hitherto supposed to be formidable. Mr. King shows that they are widely scattered over the Sahara; but all the evidence collected in the past two years is to the effect that they can offer no serious opposition to foreign occupancy since the French have learned the art of rapid desert travelling.

Mr. King's journey extended only from Biskra to Wargla, and then northeast to El Wad, where he finally caught his Tuaregs. He learned little that has not been told by Duveyrier and later writers. He was able, however, to secure some photographs of men and women. Other fine pictures illustrate desert travel, and life in the Saha an towns and oases. The vivacious narrative gives the book a fascinating quality, and conveys an excellent idea of the oases regions to the south of Biskra.

A Handbook of Modern Japan. By Ernest W. Clement. Maps and Illustrations. 395 pp. Index. A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, 1903. (Price, \$1.50.)

This work, as its title indicates, is not a book of travel or of geographical description. Its topics relate to the Japan of the present in its material, intellectual, political, and other aspects. It is not encyclopædic, but gives a clear idea of the things that are most important in the life of the individual and the nation. The reader will be helped by it to understand the moving impulses in all phases of Japan's activities. The specialist will not discover in the book all the material he needs, but at the end of each chapter are full references to the best sources of more complete

knowledge, and these bibliographies are very important features of the volume. The map is commonplace, and shows topography only in a crude manner.

The writer says that the study of the English language may begin in the higher elementary school of Japan, and is required in every middle school which corresponds to our high school. We may look upon the attention given to the English language in Japanese schools as one of the means by which our relations of friendship and business with that empire will be facilitated.

Le Japon d'aujourd'hui. Par G. Weulersse. 364 pp. Armand Colin, Paris, 1904.

The book will prove welcome as an aid to the study of modern Japan. Its chief topics are the geography of the country, the leading cities (Tokio, Kioto, and Osaka), agriculture, the manufacturing industries, education, and the position of Japanese women.

The farmers of Japan appear to be progressive. M. Weulersse says that, in addition to the variety of native fertilizers, phosphates and other chemical agencies for enriching the soil are coming into use. Twenty-seven per cent. of the area under rice now yields two crops a year. From 1892 to 1896 the extent of the tea plantations diminished, but the improved methods of tillage increased the production 17 per cent.

The Engineer in South Africa. By Stafford Ransome, C.E. 320 pp. Maps and Illustrations. E. P. Dutton & Co., New York, 1903. (Price, \$2.50 net.)

Though this book was written by an engineer, it is not technical, but is adapted to edify and interest all intelligent persons who, for any reason, would like to possess accurate and solid information about South Africa. The chapters on industrial geography, international colonial relations, the harbours of South Africa, interior communications, diamond and gold mining, irrigation and labour problems, are especially valuable in their geographic and economic relations. So full a description of the harbours, with their lamentable limitations and the methods of development and improvement required, does not appear in any of the larger books on South Africa. A full description of Saldanha Bay is given, with a map and pictures. This almost ideal natural harbour on the